



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): S. WU *et al.*

Attorney Docket No: 20002.0350

Application No.: 10/661,516

Group Art Unit: 1712

Filed: September 15, 2003

Examiner: D. Buttner

For: REACTION INJECTION MOLDABLE
COMPOSITIONS, METHODS FOR MAKING
SAME, AND RESULTANT GOLF ARTICLES

DECLARATION OF MANJARI KUNTIMADDI UNDER 37 CFR § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Manjari KUNTIMADDI, hereby declare that:

1. I am a citizen of India, and reside at 20 Sweet Amanda's Way, Plymouth, MA 02360.
2. That I am a co-inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application.
3. I am, and at the time of invention I was, employed by ACUSHNET COMPANY (formerly doing business as Titleist and Foot-joy Worldwide), 333 Bridge Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, the Assignee of record of the entire, right, title and interest in the invention.
4. That this declaration is filed to show that prior to October 1, 1999, my co-inventors and I conceived and reduced to practice the subject matter of the claimed invention.
5. That attached hereto is Exhibit A. Exhibit A is a copy of the invention record for the present invention demonstrating conception and reduction to practice the claimed invention. For example, the process described in the invention record uses low viscosity materials for components A and B, *i.e.*, isocyanates and polyols, for fast-reacting

polyurethane systems to produce golf ball components. The invention record further describes that suitable chemical compositions for RIM processing are those that have a relatively quick gel time. Certain information has been redacted in accordance with standard practice. However, all redacted dates are prior to October 1, 1999.

6. That I have reviewed the document of Exhibit A. Although the dates of Exhibit A have been blanked out, the dates are all prior to October 1, 1999. I hereby confirm that the work evidenced by the document of Exhibit A and all the acts relied upon in this Declaration were carried out by me, a co-inventor, or someone acting at our direction in the United States prior to October 1, 1999.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 07/18/05

K. Manjari
Manjari KUNTIMADDI

EXHIBIT A

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Case Number TFJ00-031

INVENTION RECORD

1. Short, descriptive title of the invention

Reaction Injection Moldable Chemical Compositions and Method for Making the Same

2. Inventors

a.) Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial

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Citizen of USA

3. What do you think the invention is?

(Describe in a few sentences what is novel about your invention)

The invention discloses a faster, potentially cheaper way to make polyurethane components or other reactive materials for golf balls, including covers, cores, and inner layers. This invention also expands on the potential, previously undisclosed materials available for golf ball manufacturing.

Commercially available polyurethane covered golf balls that are currently sold in the market are processed either by the castable urethane process or by the injection molding process when the thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) material is used. When the castable process is used, the reaction time generally is slow. It greatly restricts the utility of other useful chemical

compositions that are faster reacting in nature. The present invention addresses this deficiency by utilizing a Reaction Injection Molding (RIM) process.

4. How does it work?

(Please provide a detailed description of the invention. You can use sketches, drawings, flow sheets, chemical equations, etc. to help understanding by others.)

In the RIM process, at least two or more reactive low viscosity liquid components are mixed by impingement and injected under high pressure (1200 psi or higher) into an open or a closed mold. The reaction times for the RIM systems are much faster than the low pressure mixing and metering machines, consequently, the raw materials used for the RIM process are generally much lower in viscosity to allow intimate mixing by impingement in a very short time.

The use of additives such as colorants, processing aid, foaming agents, and fillers is also applicable.

A schematic representation of a typical RIM process is shown in (Figure 1) enclosed.

5. Are there any other uses for your invention?

(This answer will help to get the broadest possible patent protection and identify other areas where there may be relevant prior art)

The RIM process can be used to mold centers, mantles, covers, shoe soles, club shafts, iron/putter inserts and club heads; and other areas, such as integral skin foam, high modulus and low modulus elastomers, and rigid structural foam systems.

High modulus elastomeric systems typically are formulated to a 1.0 – 1.1 specific gravity and a material Shore hardness of 60 – 75 D. Flexural modulus ranges between 25,000 – 130,000 psi. Typical applications for high modulus elastomers are bumper covers, business machine housings, urethane/filler composites, rigid structural foams for electronic cabinetry, and body panel parts of all types.

Low modulus elastomeric systems have a material Shore hardness of less than 60 D and a flexural modulus of lower than 25,000 psi. Typically applications for low modulus elastomers are flexible urethane gaskets, carpet under lays, energy absorbing foams, and integral skin foams that provide soft, aesthetic surfaces.

6. What is new about your invention and how does it improve on the present situation?

(You might wish to answer one or more of the following questions: What are the technical problems it will solve? What are the commercial problems it will solve?)

- Commercially available polyurethane covered golf balls that are currently sold in the market are processed either by the castable urethane process or by the injection molding process when the thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) material is used. When the castable process is used, the reaction time generally is slow. It greatly restricts the utility of other useful chemical compositions that are faster reacting in nature. The injection moldable thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) limits to only those elastomers that are thermoplastic in nature. The present invention addresses these deficiencies by utilizing a Reaction Injection Molding (RIM) process.
- RIM process differs from the castable urethane process in that the raw materials used in the RIM process are faster reacting and lower in viscosity. RIM machine can process fast reacting materials having viscosity up to about 2,000 cps and a pot life of less than five seconds. Because of the low viscosity materials used in the RIM process, Components A & B and possibly a third and a fourth stream are capable of being mixed

by impingement in less than a second before injecting the mixed material into the closed mold at about 2,000 – 2,500 psi. Whereas, the conventional castable urethane process normally is capable of handling raw materials having processing viscosity up to 3,500 cps and a pot life of more than 35 seconds. Because of the slower reacting and higher viscosity raw materials used, the castable process employs mechanical mixing and requires a much longer mixing time.

- Various resilient and durable castable urethane formulations that are too fast for the conventional castable urethane method can be processed with the present invention. Faster reaction rate will eventually translate into increased productivity after the process is optimized.
- The RIM process is also suitable for molding layers as thin as 0.020" or less, which is difficult – if not impossible – with other molding methods.
- Material costs for RIM materials are potentially much lower than with castable materials.

7. Do you know of any published literature relevant to your invention? What concept(s) that you have found appears closest to your invention...and how is your invention different? Where have you looked and what did you find? If you have not yet looked, do so now. Do not proceed without at least a search of US Patents in the last 20 years. A searchable database is available online and we have copies of all golf patents in house.

("Literature" includes other patents, patent applications, published papers, conference proceedings, trade literature, magazine articles, etc.)

PMA RIM Design Conference proceeding on Reaction Injection Molding of Light Stable Polyurethane Systems by Colorim Systems, October, 1985.

PMA RIM Design Conference proceeding on What is RIM? by Krauss Maffei Corporation, October, 1985.

PMA RIM Design Conference proceeding on Innovation in RIM Polyurethane Markets by Mobay Chemical Corporation, October, 1985.

Teltech literature search prepared for Shenshen Wu dated October 4, 1999.

Teltech literature search prepared for Shenshen Wu dated October 5, 1999.

Teltech literature search prepared for Manjari Kuntimaddi dated September 26, 2000.

Issued US Patent # 6,083,119 on July 4, 2000 by Spalding Sports Worldwide, Inc. on Multi-Layer Golf Ball.

— requires additional review —

PMA Conference proceeding on Reaction Injection Molding (RIM) Technology – New Horizons by Bayer Corporation, October 3rd, 2000.

8. When and where was the idea of the invention first conceived? Who participated? (It is important to note whether the invention was made in collaboration with people - including vendors and consultants - in other departments or even other companies. Focus on "Inventor" – the person(s) who thought up or imagined or produced the invention for the first time through the use of imagination or ingenious thinking and experimentation. You should not list "implementers" who simply take the inventor's instructions and fabricate something.)

- c. Apply adhesion promoters to the core surface, such as Eastman 343-1 & 3, Eastman 515-2, Bayer 8713, Bayer U42 & U53, Bayer 140AQ, Ricobond, and Witcobond.

The present invention comprises RIM chemical compositions having at least 5% NCO (isocyanate) concentration in the prepolymer and/or quasi prepolymer, and a component A to Component B ratio range of 0.02 : 1 to 10 : 1.

Suitable materials for use in Component A include pure isocyanates, quasi-prepolymers; and prepolymers having a viscosity range from 25 cps to 2,000 cps processable at either ambient temperature and/or at an elevated temperature.

Suitable curing agents for Component B include polyols and polyamines having functionality of at least two; and having a viscosity range from 25 cps to 2,000 cps processable at either ambient temperature and/or at an elevated temperature.

Suitable chemical compositions for process by RIM are those chemical formulations, with or without a catalyst, that having a gel time ranging from ¼ second to 5 seconds.

When an internal mixer is used, the upper limit viscosity of Components A & B can be increased to 3,500 cps with a gel time extended to 10 seconds.

These chemical compositions can optionally be foamed using either chemical blowing agents such as water or non-reactive gases like Freon, nitrogen, helium, etc. The micro-cellular foam process can be used in the present invention.

The density of these chemical compositions can further be adjusted by the addition of fillers such as metallic powders, metal oxides, and other metal derivatives.

Suitable catalysts for use in the RIM process include fast reacting aromatic and aliphatic amines such as Ethacure 100, Clearlink 1000 & 3000, Jeffamines, isophorone diamine, 1,3- and 1,4-diaminocyclohexane, 1,3- and 1,4-cyclohexane bis(methylamine), 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diamine, diethylene glycol di-(aminopropyl)ether, 5-amino-1,3,3-trimethyl-cyclohexane-methylamine, etc.; tin catalysts such as dibutyltin dilaurate; amine catalysts such as triethylenediamine; organic acids such as acetic acid or oleic acid; and delayed catalysts such as POLYCAT SA-1, SA-102, SA-610/50, etc. manufactured by Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Suitable catalyst concentrations in the elastomers ranges from about 0.001% to about 3.0%

Suitable isocyanates include, but not limited to, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate (MDI); polymeric 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate (polymeric MDI); carbodiimide modified 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate (liquid MDI); toluene diisocyanate (TDI); 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate (TODI); para-phenylene diisocyanate (PPDI); xylylene diisocyanate (XDI); ethylene diisocyanate; propylene-1,2-diisocyanate; tetramethylene-1,4-diisocyanate; 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI); 2,2,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate; 2,4,4-trimethylene diisocyanate; dodecane-1,12-diisocyanate; cyclobutane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,4-diisocyanate; methyl cyclohexylene diisocyanate; meta-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate (*m*-TMXDI); para-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate (*p*-TMXDI); 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate (H₁₂MDI); isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI); cyclohexyl diisocyanate (CHDI); 1,5-naphthalene diisocyanate (NDI); trimerized isocyanurate of TDI; isocyanurate of toluene diisocyanate; isocyanurate of hexamethylene diisocyanate; dimerized uretdiones of TDI; etc., and mixtures thereof.

Suitable polyols include, not not limited to, polyether polyols such as polytetramethylene ether glycol; poly(oxypropylene) glycol; and poly(ethylene oxide capped oxypropylene) glycol. Suitable polyester polyols include polyethylene adipate glycol; polyethylene propylene adipate glycol; polybutylene adipate glycol; polycarbonate glycol. Suitable polycaprolactone

The idea of the invention was first conceived on _____ as evidenced by Murali Ralagopalan's e-mail message to Kevin Harris dated _____. The conception took place in _____ by K. Harris and S. Wu during the experimental development of the Titleist Professional. No documentation of this fact is available at this writing...but we'll keep looking. (see also the _____ attached Memorandum from Kevin Harris to Bill Morgan.)

9. When did you make the first notes or sketches? Where?

Please see the explanations described above.

10. Has your invention only been demonstrated in your laboratory, or has it been used outside (ex: Pilot Run in the plant or a trial at another manufacturing facility)? Summarize the results that best demonstrate your invention ("Best mode"). Please identify where the results are recorded.

(You may attach copies of formal project reports if this is more convenient. Test results provide evidence that the invention works and provides the intended result)

A reduction to practice of the invention was made at Bayer's lab under "Work For Hire" agreement during the week of _____. The core used for this trial is the HP Distance 1.390" core. The mantle formulation is Bayflex 110-35 IMR system; and the cover formulation is Bayflex XGT-80. Physical properties of each component is tabulated below.

Component Properties	Core	Mantle	Finished Ball
Size, (inches)			
Pole	1.390	1.510	1.676
Equator	1.390	1.510	1.684
Weight, oz (g)	0.952 (27.0)	1.186 (33.6)	1.616 (45.8)
Corr. Compression	50	69	110
COR @ 125 ft/sec	0.776	0.754	0.745
Material Hardness			
Shore D		35	65
Core Surface			
Hardness, Shore D	45.2		

Other suitable formulations for the RIM process include:

- Low %NCO MDI/polybutadiene diol prepolymer cured with Unilink 4200.
- Aromatic and/or aliphatic prepolymers cured with fast reacting aromatic and/or aliphatic diamines.
- Quasi-prepolymers cured with polyol/diamine curative blends.
- Quasi-prepolymers cured with polyols with catalyst.
- Fast reacting polyurea systems.
- Fast reacting coating systems, solvent and/or solventless.
- Interpenetrating Polymer Networks with
 - Polyurea/polyurethane (using aliphatic and/or aromatic systems) and polyacrylic systems.
 - Polyurethane/polyurea/epoxy systems. For example, MDI prepolymer/DER 331 cured with Jeffamines.

In some cases, the following treatments were also made to the cores prior to mantle molding when the adhesion of the core to the mantle layer was inferior.

- Corona and/or Plasma treat the core surface.
- Flame treat the core surface.

polyols which are useful in the present invention include diethylene glycol initiated polycaprolactone, 1,4-butanediol initiated polycaprolactone, 1,6-hexanediol initiated polycaprolactone; neopentyl glycol initiated polycaprolactone; and polytetramethylene ether glycol initiated polycaprolactone; hydroxylated acrylic polyols; Bisphenol A based epoxies; castor oils. Copolymers and mixtures of these polyols are also suitable. These polyols have an average molecular weight of about 200 to 4000.

Suitable hydroxy-terminated curing agents include, but not limited to, ethylene glycol; diethylene glycol; polyethylene glycol; propylene glycol; dipropylene glycol; polypropylene glycol; 1,3-butanediol; 1,4-butanediol; 2,3-butanediol; 2,3-dimethyl-2,3-butanediol; 1,5-pentanediol; 1,6-hexanediol; resorcinol-di-(beta-hydroxyethyl) ether and its derivatives; hydroquinone-di-(beta-hydroxyethyl) ether and its derivatives; 1,3-bis-(2-hydroxyethoxy) benzene; 1,3-bis-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy] benzene; 1,3-bis-[2-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy] ethoxy] benzene; 1,3-bis-(2-hydroxyethoxy) cyclohexane; 1,3-bis-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy] cyclohexane; 1,3-bis-[2-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy] ethoxy] cyclohexane; 2-propanol-1,1'-phenylaminobis; trimethylolpropane; polytetramethylene ether glycol having molecular weight from 250 to 3900; and mixtures thereof.

The molecular weight of the diols is at least 50.

Suitable amine-terminated curing agents include, but not limited to, tetrahydroxypropylene ethylene diamine; 4,4'-methylenebis-(2-chloroaniline); 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine; 3,5-dimethylthio-2,6-toluenediamine; 3,5-diethyltoluene-2,4-diamine; 3,5-diethyltoluene-2,6-diamine; 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-diphenylmethane; 1,4-bis-(sec-butylamino)-benzene; 1,2-bis-(sec-butylamino)-benzene; derivatives of 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-diphenylmethane; 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-dicyclohexylmethane; 1,4-bis-(sec-butylamino)-cyclohexane; 1,2-bis-(sec-butylamino)-cyclohexane; derivatives of 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-dicyclohexylmethane; N,N'-dialkylamino-diphenylmethane; trimethyleneglycol-di-p-aminobenzoate; 4,4'-methylene-bis-(3-chloro-2,6-diethylaniline); 4,4'-methylene-bis-(2,6-diethylaniline); 4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloroaniline); meta-phenylenediamine; para-phenylenediamine; 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diamine; cyclohexyldimethylol; 1,4-cyclohexane-bis-(methylamine); 1,3-cyclohexane-bis-(methylamine); diethylene glycol di-(aminopropyl) ether; 2-methylpentamethylene-diamine; diaminocyclohexane; triisopropanolamine; diethylene triamine; triethylene tetramine; tetraethylene pentamine; propylene diamine; 1,3-diaminopropane; dimethylamino propylamine; diethylamino propylamine; imido-bis-propylamine; diethanolamine; triethanolamine; diisopropanolamine; isophoronediamine; and mixtures thereof.

The amine curing agent has a molecular weight of about 64 to 2000.

11. Has the invention been disclosed outside the company? yes

- If yes, was a non-disclosure agreement signed? yes
- Please give date of the event: During the week of
- Describe event

During the week of _____, a trip was made to Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh. We explored the RIM process for fast reacting polyurethane systems to produce golf ball mantles and covers. Bayer made a prototype mold using our golf ball dimple cavities and custom-made mantle cavities with fixed pins for feasibility study under our supervision. The mantle and cover formulations were provided by Bayer at this trial.

Several mantles and golf balls were molded during this trip.

12. Signature of Inventor(s)

(You must have two witnesses - one of which must be director level or above. Each witness must have read and understood the invention record.)

Inventors

- a.) Shenshen Wu
- b.) Murali Rajagopalan
- c.) Manjari Kuntimaddi
- d.) Kevin Harris

Shenshen Wu
M. Rajagopal
Manjari K.
Kevin Harris

Witness#1

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